

IRMP 2019-2023 CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

October 2018



ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

Here are some of the main engagement statistics during the 8-week consultation.

398



responses received in our online survey

1,085

visits to the webpage, the sixth most popular page on the website

Over 100 more responses than the IRMP 2015-19 consultation.

11,373

views of our consultation video on Facebook



31.65% of all respondents heard about the consultation through social media

92,026

People reached on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn



54%

of respondents were residents, living in Royal Berkshire

38%

of respondents were members of staff

Promotion at events

including: Reading Pride, open days in Langley, Lambourn and Wokingham, and a drop in event in Slough

23%

of people were told about the consultation by a member of staff



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1. Introduction

This report summarises the main findings from the public consultation on project proposals from the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2019-2023, as well as questions around the clarity of RBFRS' consultation activities and Council Tax precept. The consultation ran from 2 August 2018 – 28 September 2018. This document provides information on how the consultation was conducted and presents the statistical and qualitative data gathered. The consultation was carried out by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) on behalf of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA).

This is an overarching consultation on the Protection, Prevention and Response projects detailed in the IRMP 2019-23. The outcome of this consultation may lead on to specific consultations on individual topics within each project at a later date during the next IRMP period.

IRMP

Integrated Risk Management Planning is how we safely and effectively manage risk within the county of Royal Berkshire. The IRMP sets out how RBFA will assess and manage risk in Royal Berkshire, over the 2019-2023 period. This IRMP will replace the [2015-19 IRMP document](#).

Our core service delivery functions of Prevention, Protection and Response fulfil our statutory duties to manage risk in Royal Berkshire.

Each year, the Senior Leadership Team and Fire Authority Members undertake a gap analysis to identify any gaps in our existing arrangements for managing known 'normal risks', or the risks that RBFRS deal with on a regular basis. Based on this gap analysis, IRMP projects are developed to address the area of risk, improvement or efficiency that has been identified.

The IRMP 2019-2023 consultation sought to gather public feedback regarding these project proposals.

The project proposals detailed in the proposed IRMP 2019-2023 are as follows;

Project 1: Risk Analysis

- We will further develop our existing Risk Methodology and Risk Modelling capability to ensure we have an even better understanding of all foreseeable Fire and Rescue related risks.
- We will ensure that any changes to our Risk Methodology are independently validated.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to ensure our Risk Methodology and Risk Modelling aligns to theirs.

- We will work in partnership with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to ensure that we inform and align to national best practice in this area.

Project 2: Prevention

- We will work in partnership with the NFCC to ensure our education and information campaigns align to national best practice and local risk.
- We will work in collaboration with our Berkshire partners to ensure that we identify and offer support to the most vulnerable people in our society.
- We will work in collaboration with other stakeholders and blue light partners to deliver our water and road safety initiatives.
- We will further develop our local safety plans to ensure that local initiatives, campaigns and events target risk at a local level.

Project 3: Protection

- We will review our risk based inspection programme to ensure that we are identifying and targeting our resources at the areas of highest risk.
- We will update our protection strategy, policies and process to ensure our advice, inspection and enforcement programmes are effective and efficient.
- We will increase our access to specialist Fire Safety qualified staff and engineers to ensure that we have the expertise to deliver an effective and efficient protection function.
- We will conduct a gap analysis following the publication of any recommendations relating to the Grenfell fire and align our protection strategy, policies and processes to these recommendations.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to align protection policies, processes and resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Project 4: Response Resource Development

- We will assess the locations and availability of our resources to ensure the deployment of our available resources is effective and efficient.
- We will evaluate future developments in housing and infrastructure to ensure that our resource deployments match predicted future demands.

Project 5: Response Safe Systems of Work Development

- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to align our systems of work and training to National Operational Guidance and National Operational Learning.
- We will review our specialist appliances to ensure that they support the safety of our communities and staff in an efficient and effective manner.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to ensure the equipment we use supports collaborative working.
- We will work with NFCC and other key stakeholders to adopt new technologies, which support effective and efficient safe systems of work.

This summary report is designed to highlight and analyse the main findings from the consultation, both quantitative and qualitative.

At this stage, RBFA and RBFRS would like to thank all stakeholders across the communities of Royal Berkshire who took the time to partake in the IRMP 2019-2023 consultation. Your input is extremely valuable to us and we encourage you to continue to provide your feedback and suggestions in our future consultations. More information about future consultations will be made available at the appropriate time via rbfrs.co.uk.

2. Methodology

Legal and Statutory Obligations

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, provides the statutory instrument that requires fire and rescue services to have due regard to the [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#). The Framework provides guidance on integrated risk management planning and that an IRMP should:

‘Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners’

[Government consultation guidance principles](#) suggest that the length of consultation should be proportionate to the nature and impact of the proposals. RBFRS made a decision to follow good practice and the consultation ran for an 8 week period.

In carrying out the consultation, RBFRS was cognisant of the four Gunning Principles (R v London Borough of Brent [1985] 84 LGR 168) which govern how public bodies should consult. They specify that:

- Consultations should be carried out when proposals are at the formative stage
- Sufficient information is provided for intelligent consideration

- Adequate time is given for response
- Responses are conscientiously taken into account

Resources

The consultation was publicised through social media platforms, awareness raising posters and flyers, online, media and radio. Consultation material was made available via a number of accessible methods.

These included:

- Online via rbfrs.co.uk
- Hard copies
- PDF copies via email
- Consultation events
- Signposting via email

Specific stakeholders were identified and contacted directly in order to improve engagement with the consultation.

Feedback from all stakeholders was obtained using the following engagement methods:

Online survey

An online survey was designed by the consultation team to collect qualitative and quantitative data responses to the consultation questions. This enabled the consultation team to analyse numerical data and also provide an in-depth look at the nature of responses given.

Website

A section was created on the RBFRRS website in the 'Consultations' page. This included:

- An introduction, detailing what the consultation was focusing on.
- A video with interviews with the Chairman of the Fire Authority, Councillor Dudley, Lead Member for IRMP, Councillor Webster, and Group Manager, Doug Buchanan.
- Information on how people could take part in the consultation.
- A link to the survey.
- A link to the IRMP document.

- An email address, postal address and telephone number to provide alternative methods of response.
- Details on accessibility, for people requiring alternative formats or languages.
- A link to information on how we use personal information.

We had a total of **1,085** visits to the website page during the time it was running, the 6th most popular page on the RBFRS website.

Media

A press release ('Have your say and help shape the future of your fire and rescue service') was issued to media contacts on 2 August 2018, outlining RBFA's key commitments to the public and five key projects to be delivered through Prevention, Protection and Response activities. It also contained information on how RBFRS manages its resources and whether respondents would like to see extra financial flexibility for their fire and rescue service.

Coverage appeared in [The Wokingham Paper](#).

Events/External promotion

The consultation was promoted at various public events, including:

- Reading Pride
- Langley Open Day
- Lambourn Open Day
- Wokingham Fire Station Open Day
- Drop in at Tesco supermarket in Slough
- Letters were sent to partner agencies, neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, the leaders of the unitary authorities, the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and bordering Police and Crime Commissioners.
- Posters were sent to libraries, schools and GP surgeries in Berkshire, asking them to display them on their noticeboards.
- Posters and leaflets were also sent to Berkshire's unitary authorities to advertise the consultation. They also agreed to share details on social media.

Social Media

To complement the channels above, social media was used at key stages of the consultation programme to enable users to share the information and to encourage engagement. Information was posted on RBFRS' Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages at regular intervals to encourage people to participate in the consultation. As well as targeting user groups on Twitter, information about the consultation was shared in Facebook community groups.

Analytics for the Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram are as follows:

Our videos posted to Facebook accrued **11,373 views**, **1,735 clicks**, and reached **33,167 people**. In addition to the impressive number of people who saw the posts in some form, there were **191 likes, comments and shares** in relation to our videos, showing a strong level of engagement as well as reach.

In total, our Twitter posts received **56,839 impressions** (i.e. the measurement Twitter uses to calculate the number of times users saw the Tweets).

Our LinkedIn posts achieved **2,020 impressions** and our **Instagram** video garnered **176 views**.

These figures are representative of a successful social media campaign, which contributed almost a third of the responses according to data gathered as part of the consultation. These figures represent a significant improvement when compared to the previous IRMP and Corporate Plan.

Internal Communications

Emails were sent to staff, notifying them of the consultation programme and encouraging them to take part. A reminder was issued with two weeks remaining.

Two articles were also published in RBFRS' staff newsletter, The Shout. An article in July outlined the details of the consultation programme and explaining how staff could get involved. A second article outlining the key points from Group Manager, Doug Buchanan, was published in August.

The consultation was also promoted through one of RBFRS' internal communications channels, Cascade, on several occasions to allow middle management to brief their teams. Information was also made available on the internal intranet, Siren.

Posters were sent to all stations and put on display in RBFRS Headquarters.

Monitoring of our communication channels took place throughout the consultation period and campaigns were planned or amended accordingly to ensure effective engagement.

3. Analysis of Data

The majority of the data was gathered via an online survey conducted using Survey Monkey. All data was anonymised in line with best practice.

Quantitative Data

Quantitative data was used in a number of ways during the Corporate Plan and IRMP 2019-23 consultation:

- Indication of response rate to the survey – including skipped questions and impartial completions.
- Equality and diversity information to analyse the demographic profile of respondents.
- Indication of the capacity in which the respondents were replying – such as an individual resident of Royal Berkshire or on behalf of an organisation.
- Overall percentage of responses for each proposed consultation option. This indicated the weight of preference from the respondents in total. We also broke this data down to look at responses from individual groups to further examine the findings.

Qualitative Data

Qualitative questions were used to enable respondents to provide individual and specific feedback on the consultation proposals:

- Open ended questions were used on the online survey
- Qualitative data was analysed using coding methodology- common themes in feedback were highlighted and patterns in responses were reported on.

Due to the large number of qualitative responses received, we are unable to publish them all in this document; as such, a sample of the qualitative feedback received will be included for each relevant question. In order to remain transparent and impartial we have ensured that due consideration was given to all feedback collected, analysing every comment using coding methodology, before the most representative were collated for this report

Whilst analysing the qualitative data, we performed some cross-tabulations to see if there was any significant difference in the presenting themes between the different respondent groups. When the qualitative comments were filtered using these parameters, it was clear that the themes we had found were relevant within all groups rather than between specific. Therefore, the following information has been reported as themes that occurred through all responses as a whole.

It is important to note, that whilst the qualitative data provided gives us the opportunity to explore the views and feedback behind respondents' answers, they are not fully representative of the overall view. For example, by nature, it is more

likely that a negative comment or criticism will be left via the survey, rather than positive support. Therefore, where qualitative comments are reported in the following sections, we have provided the exact number of responses to contextualise the weight of these in comparison to the overall number of people completing the survey. However, we recognise that it is also imperative to consider the views of those leaving comments, regardless of the quantity, as they provide a richness to our data and some very important points to consider.

4. Response to Consultation

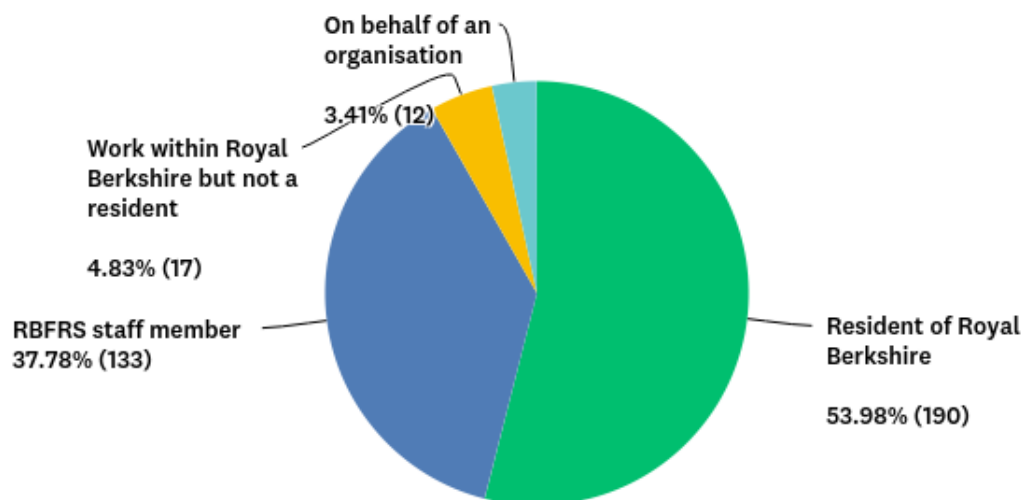
We received 398 responses to the consultation through the online Survey Monkey tool. This is the total number of response we received, however it does not take into account that a number of these responses were not fully completed.

In comparison to the IRMP 2015-2019 consultation, we received over 100 more responses to this consultation.

Respondent Profile

The tables and figures below illustrate the demographic profile of the respondents who gave their feedback to the consultation. We have presented the overall statistics for each demographic question, and then broken these responses down by response capacity to provide comparison of demographic information of RBFRS staff against all other responses.

a) Response capacity

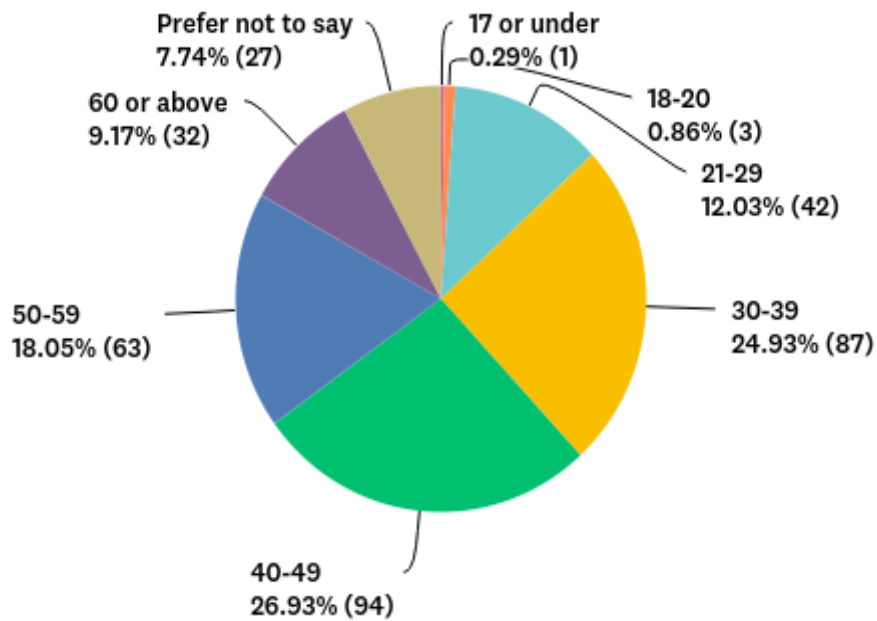


Data shows that the **majority** of respondents were responding in their capacity as a **resident of Royal Berkshire (53.98%)**. 37.78% of respondents identified themselves as working for RBFRS. The smaller representations came from those who identify as working within Royal Berkshire (4.83%) and those responding on behalf of an organisation (3.41%).

Some of the organisations who responded to this consultation were as follows:

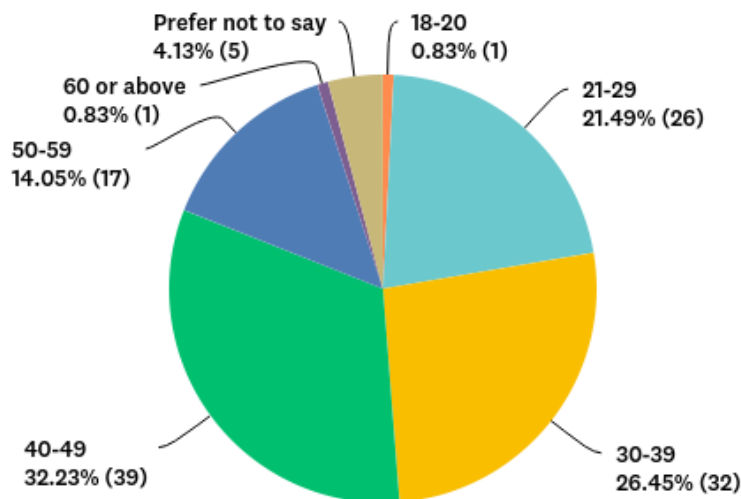
- Fire Brigades Union (Appendix A)
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (Appendix B)
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (Appendix C)
- Housing Association
- Our Lady of Peace Catholic School

b) Age

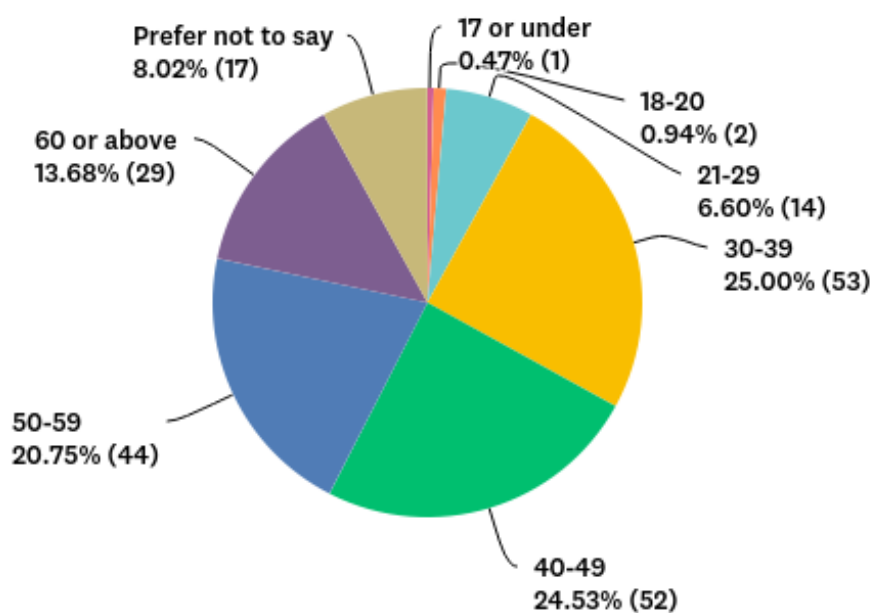


Data shows the **highest number of responses** came from those who stated their age was **40-49 years old (26.93%)**, with the **least number of responses** coming from those aged **18-20 (0.86%)** and **17 or under (0.29%)**. These findings also reflect the responses by age group in the IRMP 2015-19 consultation.

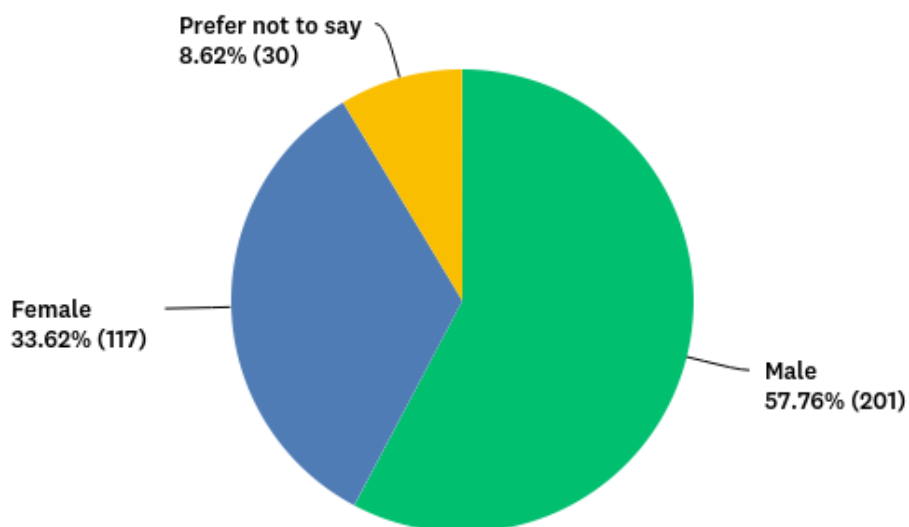
i) RBFRS staff response



ii) All other responses (non RBFRS staff)

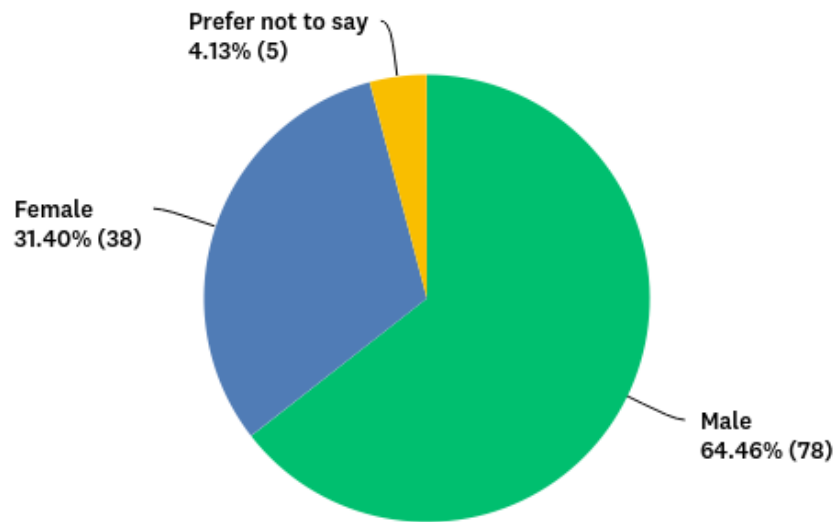


b) Gender

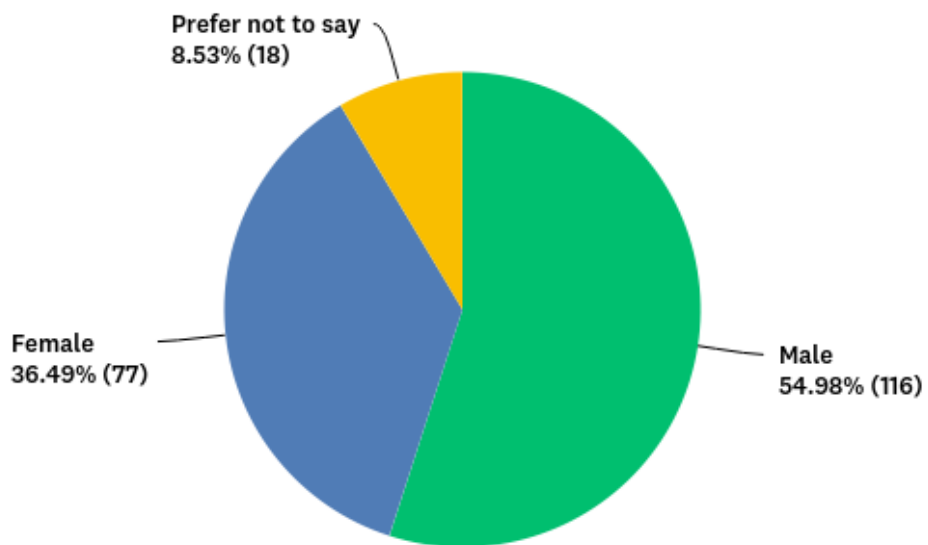


Data shows that the **majority** of respondents who stated their gender were **male (57.76 %)** compared to **female (33.62 %)**. It is worth noting that this gender split is an improvement in response rate when compared to the consultation on the IRMP 2015-2019 (male 70.43% vs female 23.74%).

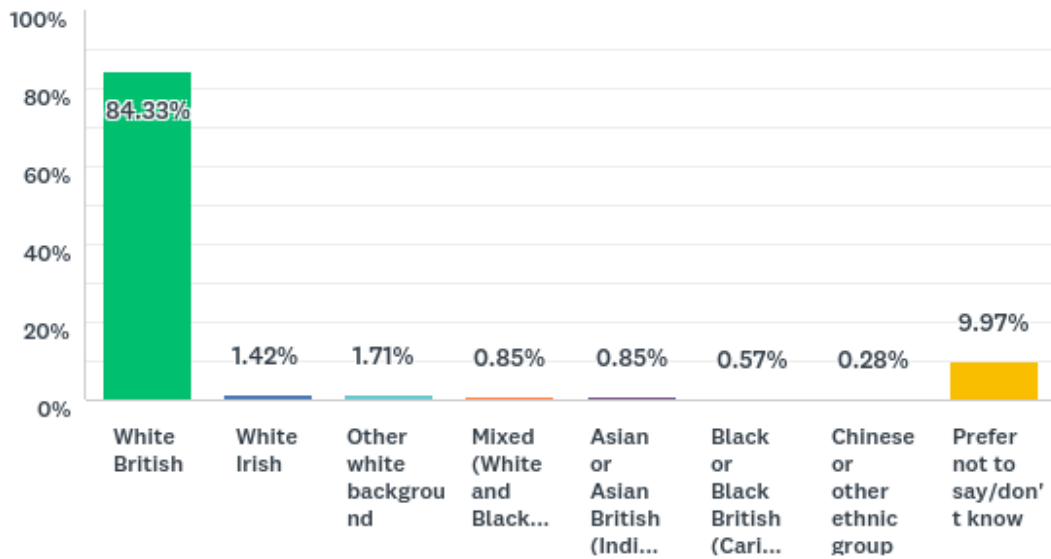
i) *RBFRS staff*



ii) *All other responses (non RBFRS staff)*



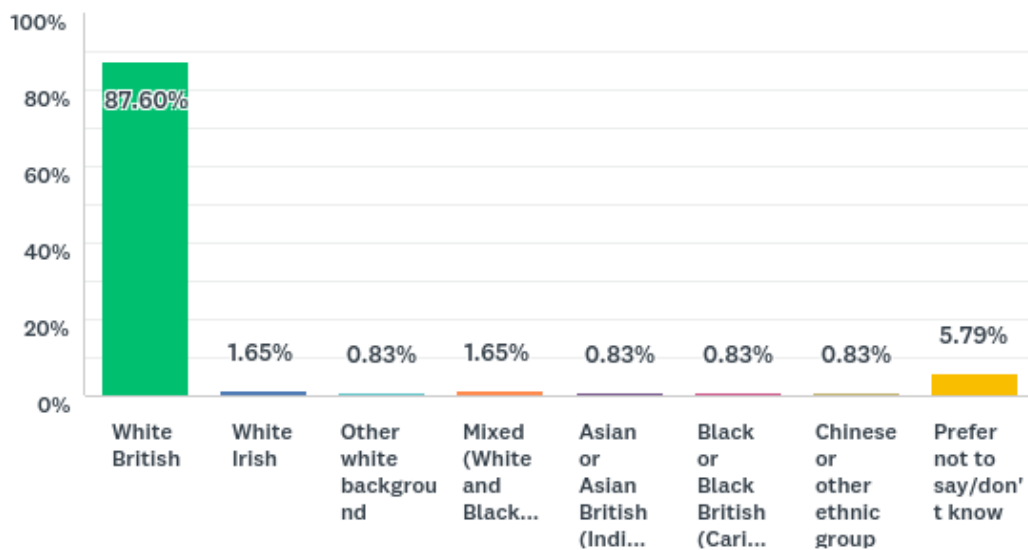
c) Ethnic Origin



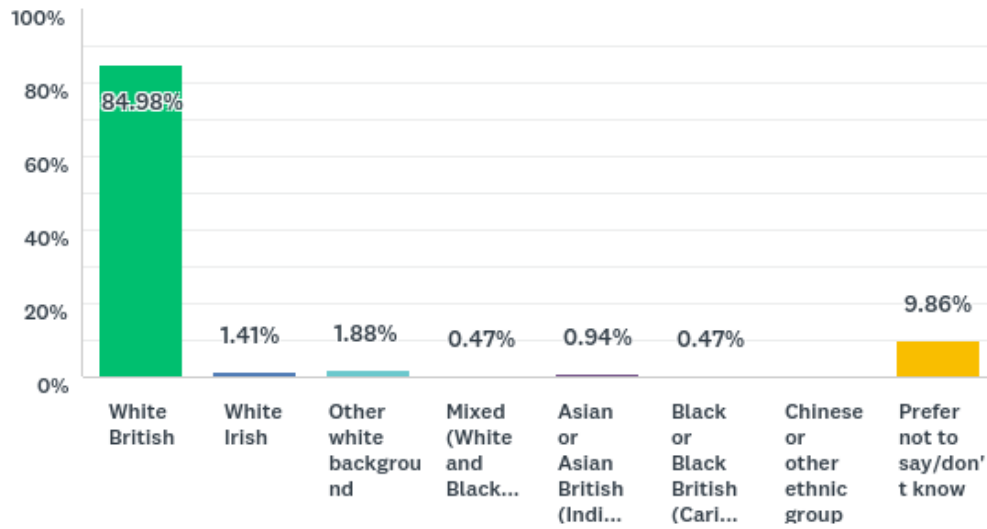
Data shows that the **majority** of respondents classed their ethnic origin as **White British (84.33 %)**.

This breakdown represents a slightly higher response rate between different ethnic origin groups than the previous IRMP 2015-2019 consultation.

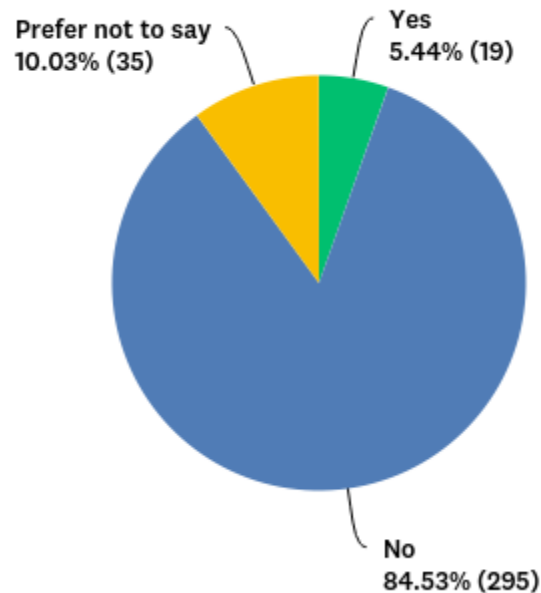
i) *RBFRS staff*



ii) All other staff (non RBFRS staff)



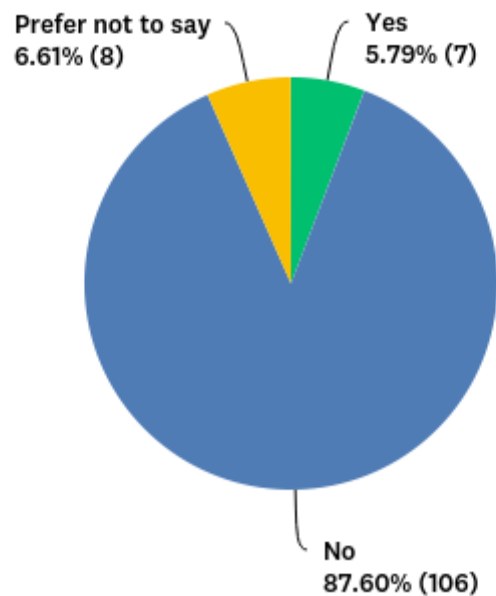
d) Disability



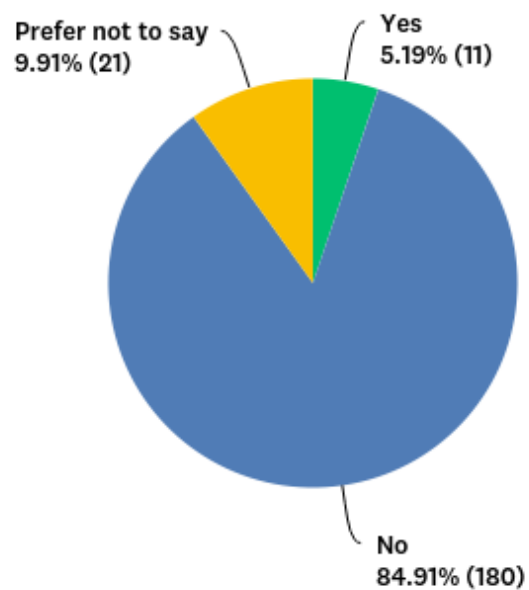
Data shows the **majority** classed themselves as **not having a disability (84.53 %)**, with the **minority** of respondents classing themselves as **having a disability (5.44 %)**.

This survey saw a **significant (50%) increase** in the response from those who **classed themselves as having a disability** when compared to the previous IRMP 2015-2019 consultation (2.75%).

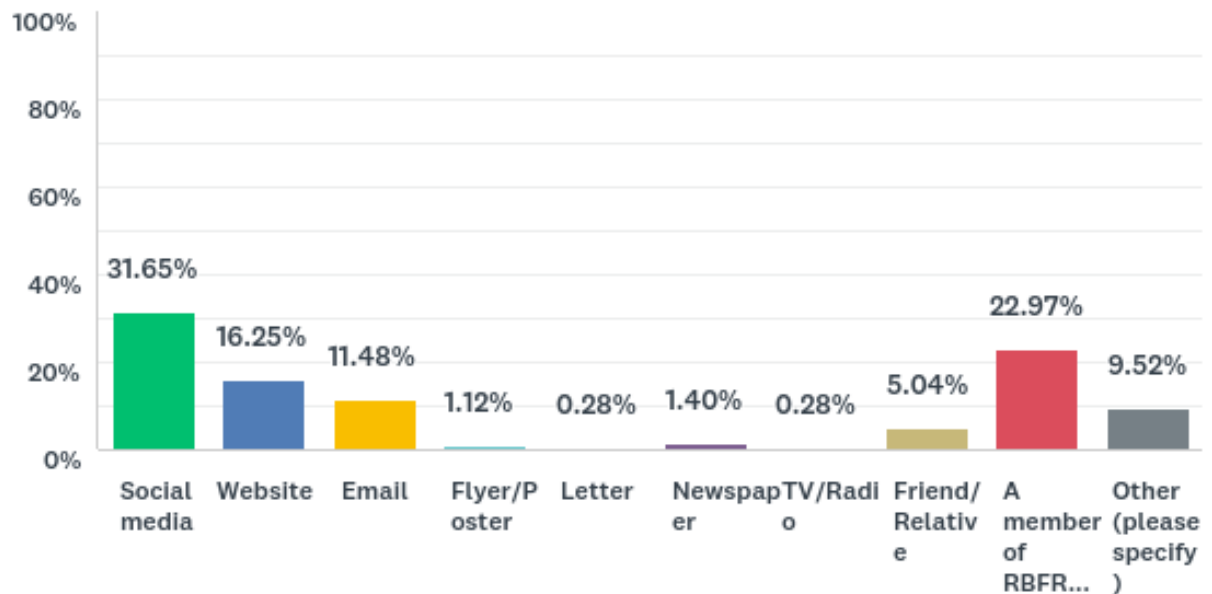
i) *RBFRS staff*



ii) *All other staff (non RBFRS)*

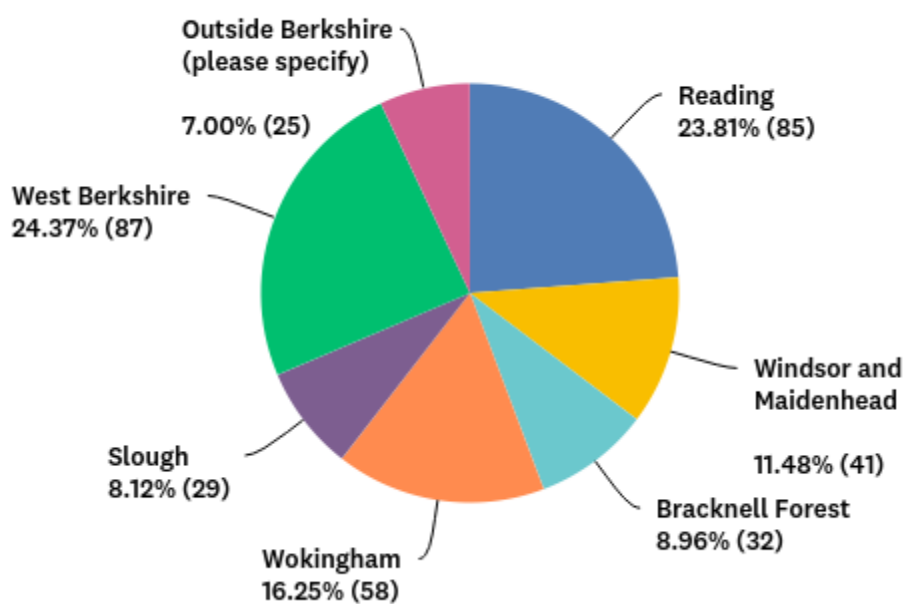


e) Engagement method



Data shows that the most popular method which respondents engaged in the consultation survey with was **social media (31.65%)**. Word of mouth from other colleagues was the next most popular method (22.97%). Paper based engagement methods, such as flyers and letters, gained a **low engagement response (1.12% flyers and 0.28% letters)**.

g) Unitary Authority



Data shows that the largest number of responses came from **West Berkshire (24.37 %)** and **Reading (23.81%)**. The **least number** of responses came from **Bracknell Forest (8.96 %)** and **Slough (8.12%)**.

4. Main Findings

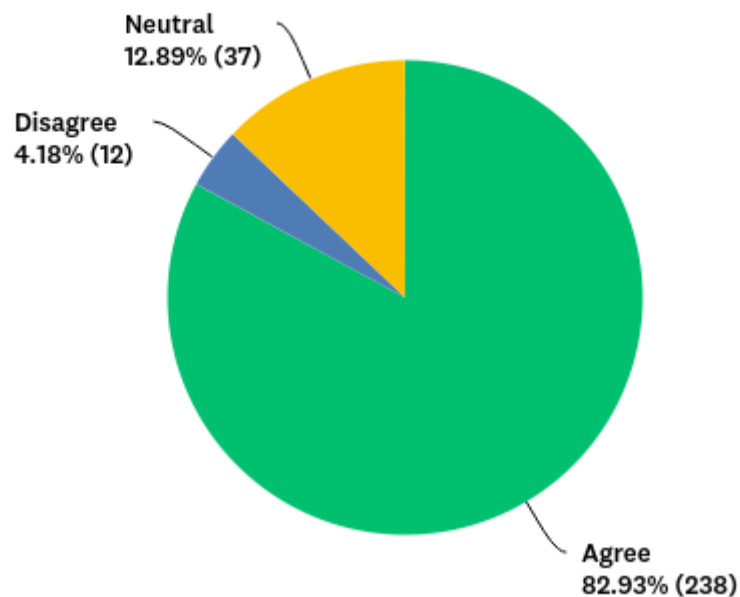
The following section will outline each of the proposed IRMP 2019-23 projects and summarise both the quantitative and qualitative information linked to these. We will report on both types of data to build an informed picture of the overall majority agreement or disagreement with the projects, as well as illustrating with narrative how the respondents may feel about the proposed areas of work.

Project 1: Risk Analysis

- We will further develop our existing Risk Methodology and Risk Modelling capability to ensure we have an even better understanding of all foreseeable Fire and Rescue related risks.
- We will ensure that any changes to our Risk Methodology are independently validated.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to ensure our Risk Methodology and Risk Modelling aligns to theirs.
- We will work in partnership with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to ensure that we inform and align to national best practice in this area.

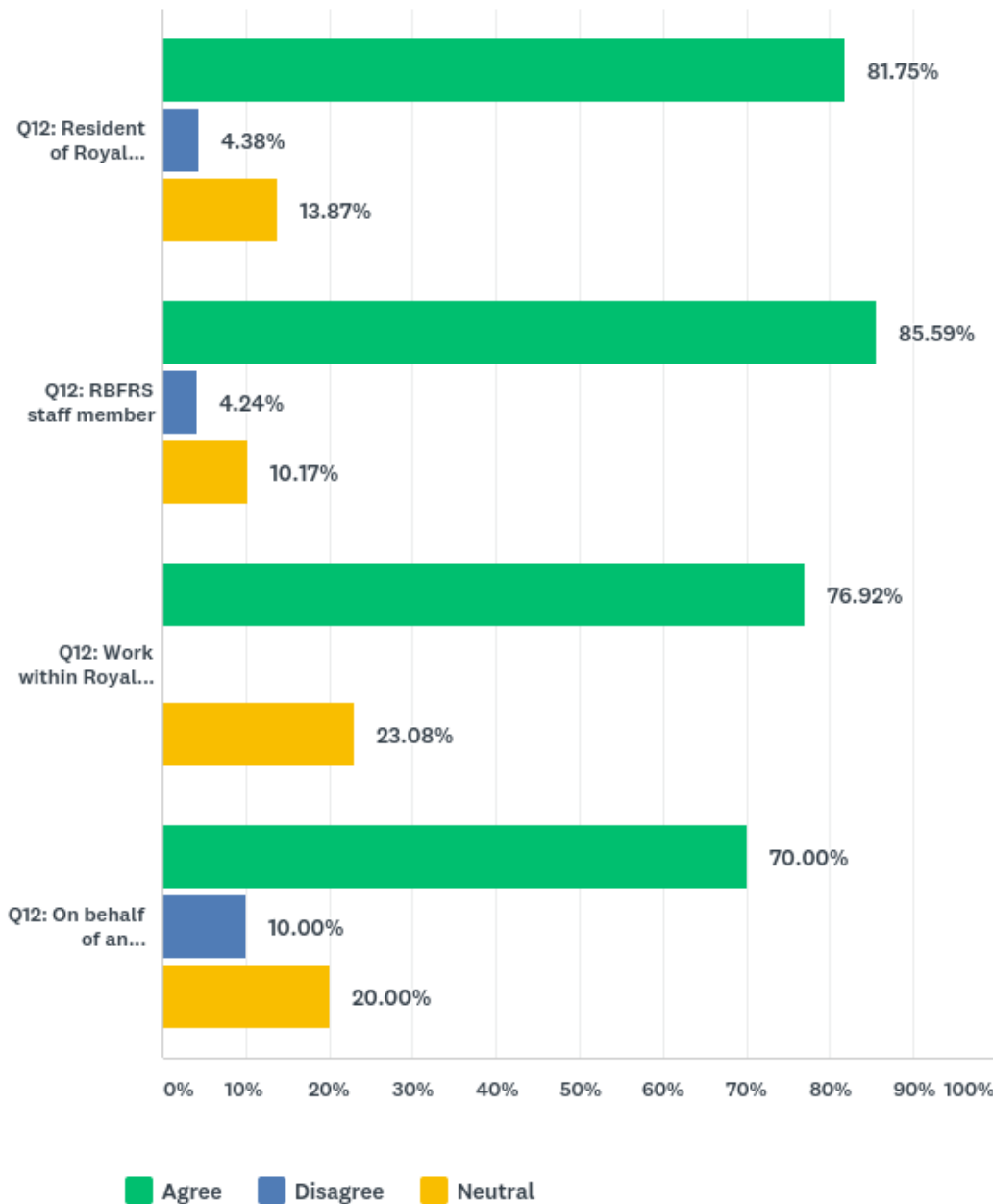
Q14: Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 1?

Answered: 278 Skipped: 74



Data shows that the **majority** of all respondents **agreed (82.93%)** with the proposed

overall focus of Project 1. **4.8% disagreed** with the proposals and **12.89% felt neutral**.



The figure above helps to illustrate the overall view of each response group. This shows that all groups are in agreement with the overall focus for Project 1. In this instance, **RBFRS staff showed the greatest majority agreement between groups (85.59% of responses)**. The largest percentage of disagreement with the overall focus of Project 1 came from organisational responses (10%) compared to the other groups.

Q15: What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 1?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 292

48.33% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

36.67% of comments were from RBFRS staff

15% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

40% (24 comments) of total responses remarked that they felt there was nothing else to be considered.

36 comments provided information to be considered.

Collaboration

12 comments provided a strong emphasis on collaboration with other agencies and/or partners to deliver the focus of Project 1:

“Close collaboration with health services would be beneficial to achieving best practices and outcomes in risk assessment and analysis.”

“Other Fire service assets Cross border collaboration, Pooling resources and greater joint working.”

“Factor in the fact surrounding fire services could have large scale incidents at the same time and no ability for over the border assistance.”

“You should also consider listening to and working with the Fire Brigades Union.”

Some reference was also made to ensuring collaboration with internal staff who work at RBFRS:

“Consult the work force.”

“My rights considered just as much as all other.”

Specific Information

6 comments illustrated a view that more information and detail should be provided about the projects- specifically how the actions will be reported, achieved and measured:

“What specific, measurable actions will be taken to meet this project?”

“Ongoing engagement and communication on project outputs / outcome.”

“Risk Management plan is full of 'consultancy speak' waffle and gives no concrete details of what the service will commit to deliver. It should state who, why, what, when & how results will be achieved.”

Risk Methodology

6 comments commented on risk methodology and modelling in the IRMP 2019-23 document. Overall, these comments illustrated that some people either wanted more information and understanding about how these calculations work, or concerns that the methodology may not encompass all relevant information:

“Is the risk methodology and modelling available for public consideration? The public may have an interest in understanding how we calculate risk.”

“No mention of the residents of Berkshire only the Fire and Rescue related risks.”

“The current risk methodology is focused on developing the existing model whereas it could be beneficial to change the model so as to take greater account of ambiguity. If this is not done the risk model pushes the assessors to preference risk treatment for known factors before treatment of unknown factors and this could be the wrong thing to do in overall risk terms”.

“Learn from others beyond TV and NFCC as to where previously unforeseen risks are being captured and incorporated into the plan.”

“Risk needs should be balanced i.e. nationally recognised risks vs locally based risk, prioritising accordingly.”

Q16: Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 1?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 303

53.06% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

30.61% of comments were from RBFRS staff

16.32% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

76% (37 comments) of total responses felt there was nothing else to be considered

12 comments provided information to be considered.

Risk Methodology

The main theme emerging from this question was concern around the risk methodology used to calculate presenting risk in the county. Four comments referred to concerns that the methodology is not appropriate or thorough enough to capture all the important information:

“Whilst risk assessments are useful, this will not cover everything and lesser considered factors still arise”.

“The collaboration on risk methodology and modelling should converge with the Thames Valley rather than align as that is likely to be more efficient and effective given the borderless mobilising”.

“We have concerns relating to the risk methodology and modelling of the other Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley.”

Additionally, 3 comments also related to proposed collaboration work:

“We look forward to continuing our collaboration in this area”.

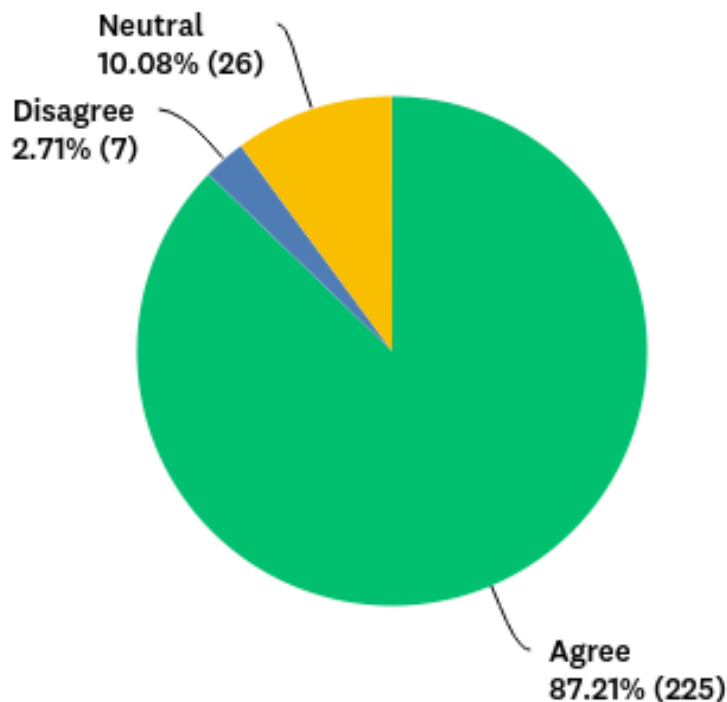
“Working with local communities in partnership to identify areas of risk.”

Project 2: Prevention

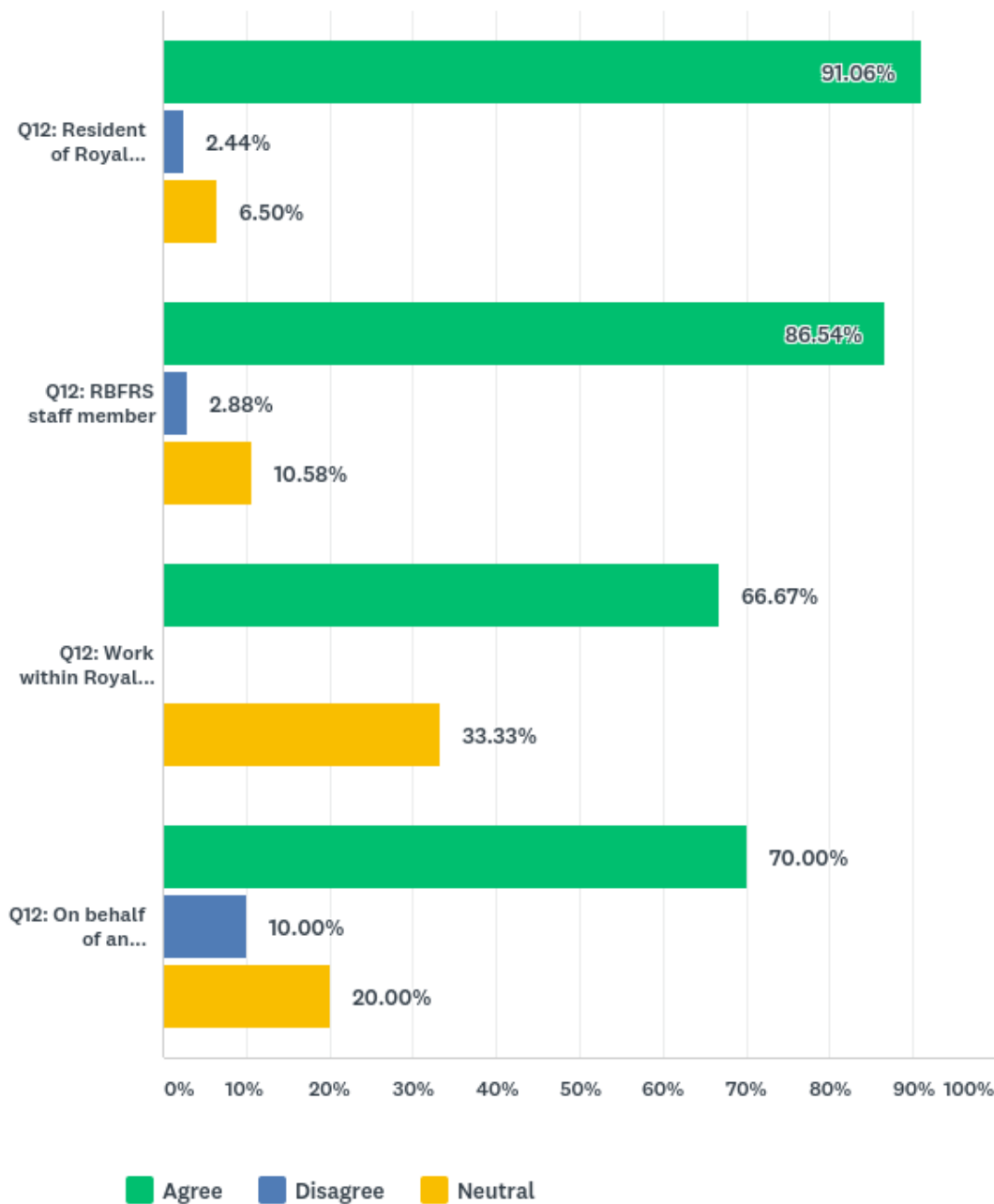
- We will work in partnership with the NFCC to ensure our education and information campaigns align to national best practice and local risk.
- We will work in collaboration with our Berkshire partners to ensure that we identify and offer support to the most vulnerable people in our society.
- We will work in collaboration with other stakeholders and blue light partners to deliver our water and road safety initiatives.
- We will further develop our local safety plans to ensure that local initiatives, campaigns and events target risk at a local level.

Q17: Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 2?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 103



Data shows that the **majority** of respondents who answered **agreed (87.21 %)** with the overall focus of Project 2.



The figure above helps to illustrate the overall view of each response group. This shows that all groups are in agreement with the overall focus for Project 2. In this instance, **residents of Royal Berkshire staff showed the greatest majority agreement between groups (91.06% of responses)**. The largest percentage of disagreement with the overall focus of Project 2 came from organisational responses (10%) compared to the other groups.

Q18: What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 2?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 305

55.32% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

39.91% of comments were from RBFRS staff

12.77% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

41% (20 comments) of total responses remarked that they felt there was nothing else to consider.

27 comments provided information to be considered.

Collaboration

Again, as with Project 1, there were 8 comments which made reference to collaboration work

“The more partner working the better.”

“Not just to focus on NFCC partnership. Prevention planning should be across the Thames Valley so as to provide better economy of scale.”

“Given budget constraints, RBFRS should concentrate on its core activities of fire & rescue responses only and axe all non-essential partnership & collaboration initiatives.”

Focus on Core Activity

6 comments felt that RBFRS should have more focus on their core activity and should not spread resources too thinly:

“No further integration with the police or ambulance services. I believe the Fire Service should be a stand-alone organisation and should not be used to cover for inadequate provision within the ambulance or police services.”

“I think that you should consider the fact that there is already a large load on FF's in the borough and what they are expected to know and do for their communities. I think asking them to take on more social care roles is unfair, it's not the job of the fire brigade nor FF's to do this and fire brigades should not be propping up the failings of the UK social care systems. I feel very strongly that FF's already have many things to deal with mentally in their roles and asking them to have more of an input in social care etc. is unfair. Due to me having to deal with the social care of a family member I

know what an emotional toll this can, does and will take and when you add this to the many types of incident that FF's attend and the more and more likelihood of FF's suffering from mental health issues, I feel this is asking one extra burden on them mentally."

"Given budget constraints, RBFRS should concentrate on its core activities of fire & rescue responses only and axe all non-essential partnership & collaboration initiatives."

"Over focus on the most vulnerable may create new gaps and expose other groups to become more vulnerable. I think there should be less focus on road and water safety as there are other funded groups that work on this and frequently we will be doubling up and even worse contradicting each other's messaging."

Communication

5 comments made a suggestion that more detail is needed about Project 2 and the objectives, as well as a consideration of the communication methods used to deliver this information :

"More detail on how the education and information campaigns will be carried out, ensuring all channels of communication are covered."

"Add more about understanding the different audiences and using appropriate communication models I would also add that we will use appropriate measures to monitor success for future planning and campaigns."

Q19: Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 2

Answered: 44 Skipped: 308

63.64% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

25% of comments were from RBFRS staff

11.37 % of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

66% (29 comments) of total respondents remarked that they felt there was nothing else to be considered.

15 comments provided information to be considered.

Safety Education

6 comments emerged making reference to ensuring that educational visits are well resourced and deliver accurate information and data:

“Ensure all staff who face the public are delivering the same up to date messages with regard to safety messages. Ensure they are given the correct tools to refer to the correct agencies where required and have access to up to date lists of who they can refer to.”

“Concentrate on quality. The presentation on road safety for schools had the water safety info tacked onto the end, lowering the quality of the presentation and diluting the impact. It was a demonstration of ticking a box rather than taking the extra effort to deliver quality. If we don’t have the capability to deliver a stand-alone presentation on water then we should hand it to somebody who can.”

“It is important to speak to young people to minimise fire/road accidents. I heard that children are most likely to experiment with fire in their bedrooms. But I am not sure this is widely known.... as a parent I would want to know simple things like this to prevent harm.”

There were also some miscellaneous comments to consider:

“As a vulnerable disabled person I welcome this.”

“No mention of what your local initiatives are.”

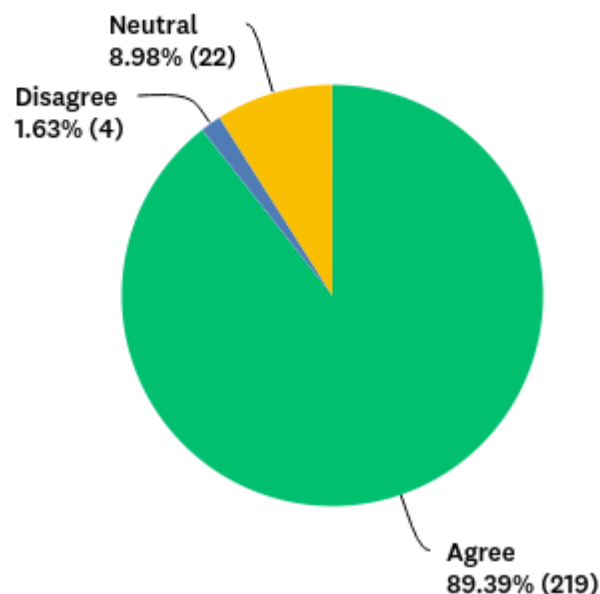
Project 3: Protection

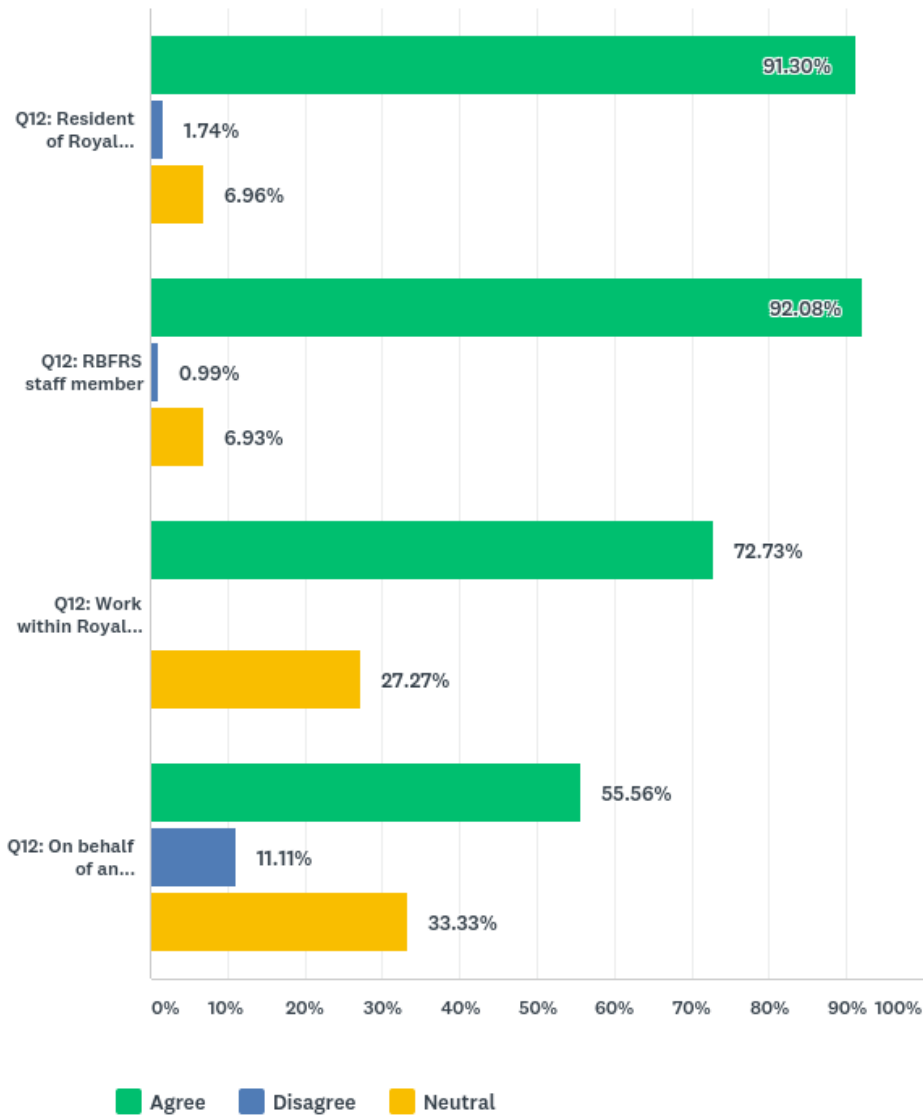
- We will review our risk based inspection programme to ensure that we are identifying and targeting our resources at the areas of highest risk.
- We will update our protection strategy, policies and process to ensure our advice, inspection and enforcement programmes are effective and efficient.
- We will increase our access to specialist Fire Safety qualified staff and engineers to ensure that we have the expertise to deliver an effective and efficient protection function.
- We will conduct a gap analysis following the publication of any recommendations relating to the Grenfell fire and align our protection strategy, policies and processes to these recommendations.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to align protection policies, processes and resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Q20: Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 3?

Answered: 236 Skipped: 116

Data shows that the **majority** of respondents **agreed (89.39 %)** with the overall focus of Project 3.





The figure above helps to illustrate the overall view of each response group. This shows that all groups are in agreement with the overall focus for Project 3. In this instance, **residents of Royal Berkshire and RBFRS staff showed the greatest majority agreement (91.30% and 92.08% respectively)**. The largest percentage of disagreement with the overall focus of Project 3 came from organisational responses (11.11%) compared to the other groups.

Q21: What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 3?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 311

56.10% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

34.15% of comments were from RBFRS staff

9.76% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

49% (20 comments) of total respondents felt there was nothing else to consider.

21 comments provided information to be considered.

Grenfell

6 comments referred to the tragic Grenfell fire incident in some way. Mainly these referred to the lessons learnt from this incident and how this relates to local risk in Berkshire:

“Consideration of anything coming out of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.”

“Check all building like Grenfell and advice on hazards and dangers to stop happening in our area.”

“I believe the Regulatory Reform Order¹ (RRO) has hamstrung the service especially with the introduction of Approved Inspectors. Lobbying to see if the consultation process could come back to the FRS would I believe reduce the likelihood of other Grenfell type incidents.”

8 comments related to a sub theme in relation to Grenfell. This was the feeling that it was important to make sure there is targeted protection activity in the risk areas within the county:

“Should be allowed to check flammable materials in new high rise buildings.”

“Again, whilst may have impact, most likely to a Minority, arguably the most competent/ capable rather than the vulnerable. Grenfell outcomes are currently being advised centrally, so whilst local impact needs addressing, it is important not to duplicate activity.”

“Right for main resources to go to high risk, but there must be enough left over for Low risk areas too.”

“Aim to increase the number of inspections Work in partnership with local authorities to target poor safety management in the community and act Work with local

¹ The regulatory reform (fire safety) order 2005 - Law relating to general fire safety in non-domestic premises – RRO

authorities to target poor fire safety in HMOs.”

Additionally, 4 comments suggested that the capacity of the service must change to meet the needs mentioned above:

“Training of Fire Safety staff will be vital.”

“Employ more front line crews as well.”

“With the vast number of new properties maybe a bigger fire service is needed.”

Q22: Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 3?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 321

61.29% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

25.81% of comments were from RBFRRS staff

12.9% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

65% (20 comments) of total respondents felt there was nothing else to consider.

11 comments provided information to be considered.

Grenfell

Again, 5 comments made reference to the Grenfell incident and how this may impact RBFRRS’s work:

“Completely agree with reviewing the risk based inspection programme and how the Grenfell disaster has affected this.”

“It is important that any lessons that come out of the Grenfell fire disaster are taken on board to keep people safe in a tall buildings.”

“Why are you having to increase specialist fire safety staff? Surely there was enough before Grenfell happened. There are no new high rise buildings in Berkshire.”

Clarity

2 comments emerged relating to the clarity of language used within the IRMP 2019-23 plan:

“Lots of use of the words ‘improving effectiveness and efficiency’. Is this service not currently effective or efficient?”

“In relation to effective and efficient, it needs to be defined what effective means and what efficient means.”

Collaboration

2 comments also made the suggestion and support for collaboration work across Prevention, Protection and Response:

“Shouldn't this cross over into Project 2: Prevention as well as I would have thought the 3 projects would be connected/interlinked?”

“Approach is well structured and aligns with that adopted by ourselves. We remain supportive of our existing collaboration in relation to protection policies, processes and resources.”

Some miscellaneous comments can also be picked out:

“Delete section on gap analysis, as any recommendations can't be implemented without the body making them providing matching funding.”

“Keep it simple and less waffle and political correctness.”

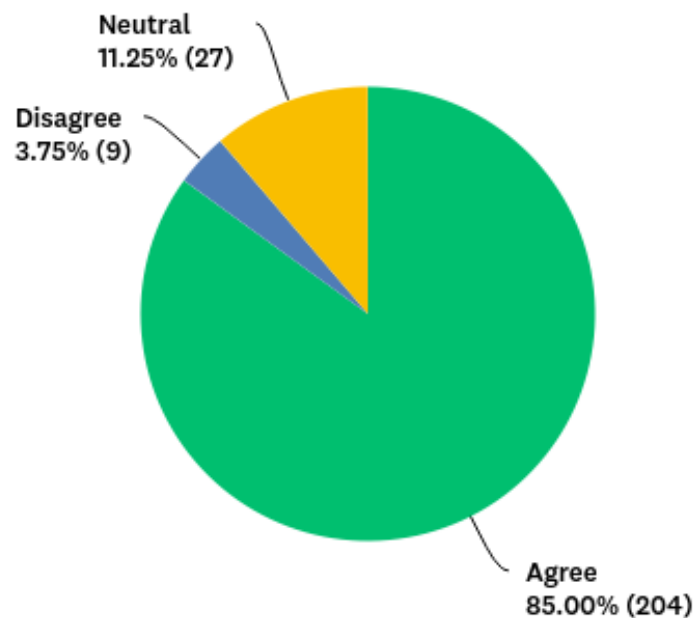
Project 4: Response Resource Deployment

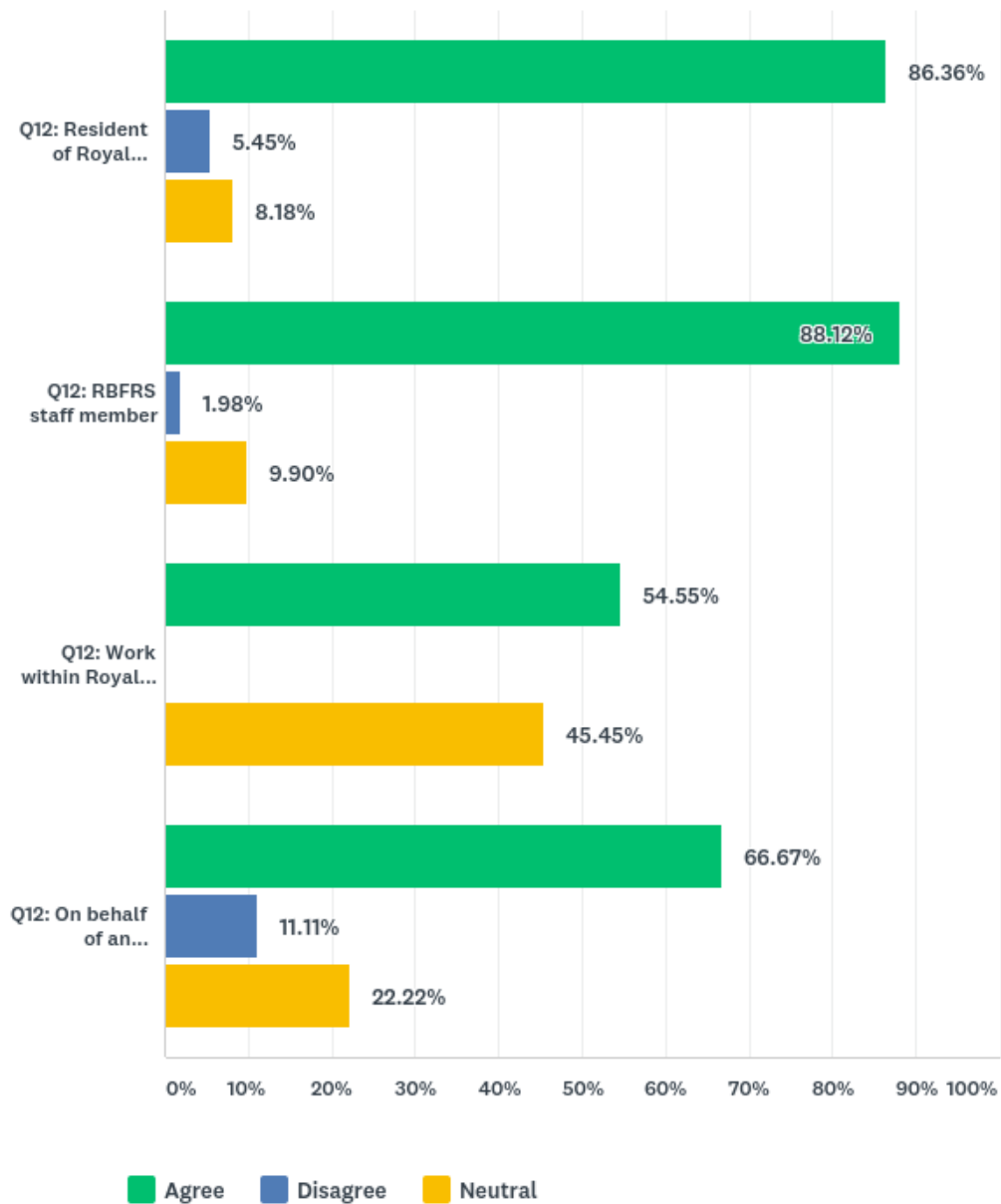
- We will assess the locations and availability of our resources to ensure the deployment of our available resources is effective and efficient.
- We will evaluate future developments in housing and infrastructure to ensure that our resource deployments match predicted future demands.

Q23: Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 4?

Answered: 236 Skipped: 116

Data shows that the **majority** of respondents **agreed (85%)** with the overall focus of Project 4.





The figure above helps to illustrate the overall view of each response group. This shows that all groups are in agreement with the overall focus for Project 4. In this instance, **RBFRS staff showed the greatest majority agreement between the groups (88.12%)**. The largest percentage of disagreement with the overall focus of Project 1 came from organisational responses (10%) compared to the other groups.

Q24: What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 4?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 299

52.83% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

32.08% of comments were from RBFRS staff

15.1% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

25% (14 comments) of total respondents felt there was nothing else to consider.

39 comments provided information to be considered.

Fire Stations

8 comments related to opposing the closure of fire stations:

“Agree with the concept but not at the expense of fire stations or front line personnel. We already have a situation in Berkshire where the service has been reduced and I find 4 riders on a pump completely unacceptable.”

“Do not close any local fire stations.”

“If RBFRS is committed to ensure best resource deployment for Berkshire why are they closing two RDS stations?”

There were also 2 comments around Wargrave station in particular:

“That the easiest stations to close do not fit in with your other aims. In the last consultation, Wargrave was chosen for closure. If this is to be considered again, the nearest attending fire engine would take 17 minutes. 7 more minutes than the stated aim in this consultation document.”

“...The significant growth of Twyford area will increase fire service future requirements, therefore the current low call-out rate at Wargrave and surrounding stations is likely to alter. Reduction of service in growth areas would be most unwise. Methods to look at optimising use of these engines/ teams should be considered, as this prepares for inevitable increase requirements and may support off-setting costs at other station.”

Retained Duty System (RDS)

9 comments considered the current use of RDS and whether this resource could be utilised differently:

“Spent 500k on a new RDS station that is never on the run, yet full time stations are falling apart, with lockers rooms next to appliance bays.”

“We need to look at strategic stand by points and Whole Time (WT) stations covering on-call stations at certain times of the day.”

“Better resource “On Call” stations to respond to the future predicted demands. Change hours of working to allow more to join, value them better.”

“RBFRS is a small brigade that used to be able to call on significant retained resources. These past years have seen the retained sections diminish considerably, not through lack of commitment or enthusiasm from the sections themselves, but through decisions made to reduce their use or an inability to recruit. To maintain a level of retained cover within the brigade, an effort needs to be made to streamline the recruitment process along with an acknowledgement by those involved with training that these individuals are not primarily employed by RBFRS. There needs to be an understanding at all levels within RBFRS that the brigade is not the top of the chain, these people have primary jobs and sometimes young families too and an effort needs to be made to be flexible with their recruitment and training. Currently there is a lack of flexibility and too much bureaucracy in the process.”

Local Needs

21 comments referred to the consideration of local needs in the county of Royal Berkshire and the availability of resources to meet these:

“Dynamic mobilising like the ambulance service to better support the public in high risk areas at certain times of the day. If better risk modelling is completed then you would know where the highest risk of incident is located based on previous history and resources should be best placed to address those possible risks.”

“Rural areas need to keep services not be deployed just to inner suburbs.”

“Local knowledge and moral amongst staff as a valuable commodity that technology cannot replicate or replace let alone tangibly measure the negative effect it will have on an organisation.”

“Your fire stations have been in there current locations for a very long time. I can surmise that they are in the best positions with relation to response and cost. New builds/land in Berkshire would be very expensive and unnecessary.”

5 comments related to response times in relation to this theme:

“Response times for risk categories, instead of a blanket response time.”

“Rural communities and the time it takes to get to locations. Rural stations aren’t necessarily efficient but they save lives!”

Housing and Infrastructure

Lastly, 7 comments raised concern about the impact of new housing and infrastructure in Royal Berkshire on the level of fire and rescue resources available:

“Consider inclusion of demographic projections alongside evaluation of housing and infrastructure.”

“Consider increasing water rescue provision to the East of the county. This is due to the amount of water borne risk around the Windsor/Datchet & Wraybury area and the travel times from Reading.”

“Influence road layout of new housing developments to ensure access to emergency fire vehicles.”

Q25: Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 4?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 315

54.05% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

35.14% of comments were from RBFRS staff

10.82% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

45% (17 comments) of total respondents felt that there was nothing else to consider

20 comments provided information to be considered.

6 comments referred to the consideration of local needs in relation to Project 4:

“I am aware that where I live the resources are part time and struggle to crew. I am concerned that in the event of an emergency you would not be able to attend quickly enough. Can you consider the relocation of full time resources to cover the gaps?”

“As above. Advise extreme caution in reducing service in areas of building growth. Advise better negotiation with councils at planning to establish likely future service requirement factoring.”

“With regards to point 2 look at future projections for building in the rural parts of Wokingham like Hare Hatch and Ruscombe, some RDS stations may well not be busy at present and, but increased demands on wholetime stations in built up areas and increased fire risks outside this area, means the need for RDS to me there when needed will be more important to the local community.”

“I think it is good to look at provision and cost to ensure that the service is run effectively and within a budget. However I disagree strongly with removing provision. The fire service saves lives. Simple. Do not minimise the service you provide. Lives will be lost as a result!”

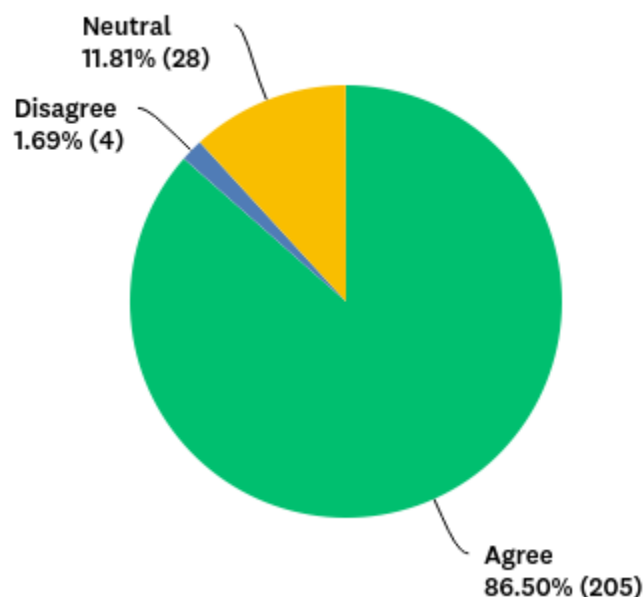
Project 5: Response Safe Systems of Work Development

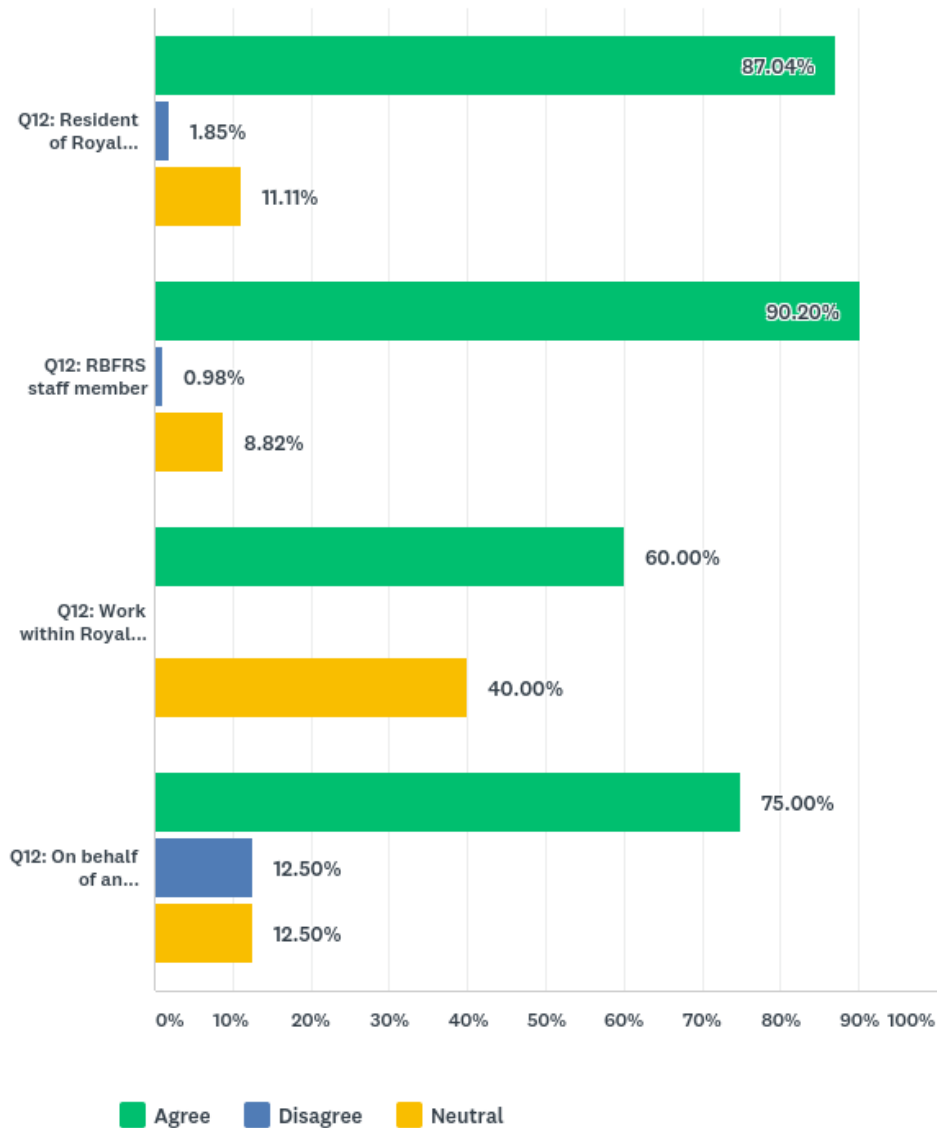
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to align our systems of work and training to National Operational Guidance and National Operational Learning.
- We will review our specialist appliances to ensure that they support the safety of our communities and staff in an efficient and effective manner.
- We will work in collaboration with our Thames Valley Fire partners to ensure the equipment we use supports collaborative working.
- We will work with NFCC and other key stakeholders to adopt new technologies, which support effective and efficient safe systems of work.

Q26: Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 5?

Data shows the **majority** of respondents **agreed (86.5 %)** with the overall focus of Project 5.

Answered: 228 Skipped: 124





The figure above helps to illustrate the overall view of each response group. This shows that all groups are in agreement with the overall focus for Project 5. In this instance, **RBFRS staff showed the greatest majority agreement (90.20%)**. The largest percentage of disagreement with the overall focus of Project 5 came from organisational responses (12.5%) compared to the other groups.

Q27: What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 5?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 315

62.16% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

24.32% of comments were from RBFRS staff

13.51% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

43.25% (16 comments) of total respondents felt they had nothing further to add.

21 comments provided information to be considered.

Collaboration

9 comments related to further collaboration of services:

“The authority should consider merging the response resources and support for those resources with the other Thames Valley fire and rescue services.”

“More collaboration with neighbouring Authorities to share these specialist assets.”

“Why not combine the 3 fire brigades completely?”

“Embed the use of Resilience Direct for multi-agency emergency planning and response.”

Resources

12 suggestions tended to focus on concerns regarding adequate amount of resources and the ability to provide adequate level of service/address levels of risk:

“Better funded training not watered down pooling of resources.”

“Ensure smaller stations have this technology along with larger stations so they are effective and efficient rural areas get missed.”

“One wonders if you are going to do all these wonderful things how on earth you will have time to put out any fires!!”

“Review should not mean cut or increase response times.”

Q28: Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 5?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 321

54.84% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

32.62% of comments were from RBFRS staff

12.9% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

80.65% (25 comments) of respondents remarked they had nothing further to add.

6 comments provided information to be considered.

Resources

There were 6 comments choosing to add further specific feedback about Project 5. The vast majority reiterated support for the project, whilst highlighting the importance of maintaining adequate resources and provision of service:

“The main problem with collaboration across services is that we all use different software, and in some cases, different practices. If the Government truly want a collaborative approach, it has to be nationwide (not just two or three counties)...”

“A project has a defined start and end, with clear objectives & measurable results...”

“Take the final joined up step. If one or the other FRS are not interested, break away and leave them on their own.”

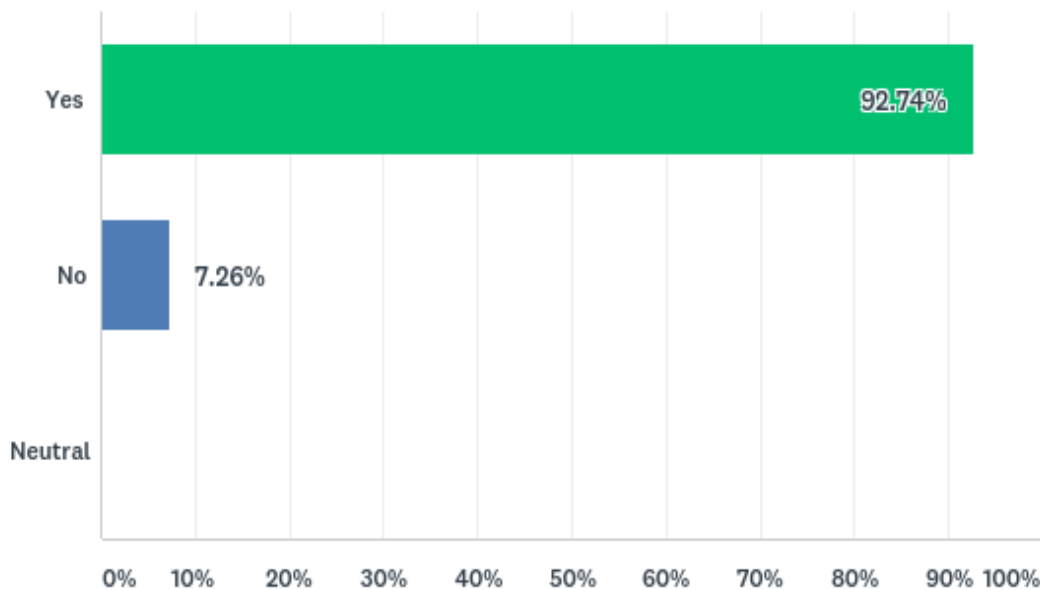
“Although reviews are a good thing, I would support this as long as a review did not downgrade or remove any specialist vehicle/personnel.”

Financial Flexibility

The Fire Authority is one of the lowest precepting Authorities in the Country (Band D property precept £64.36 per year), and has been lobbying Central Government for additional flexibility on funding. The Fire Authority, as a proven prudent Authority, would like the flexibility to increase the annual council tax charge for your Fire and Rescue Service by a maximum of £5 per year, or just under 10 pence per week.

Q29: Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority having this flexibility?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 127

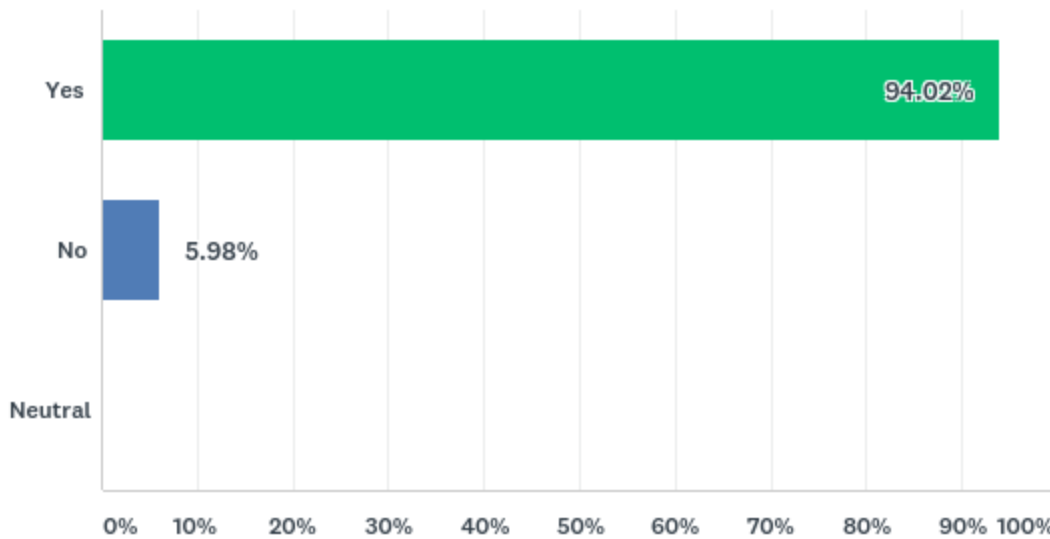


Data shows **the majority of respondents to this question supported (94.2%) the Fire Authority having the financial flexibility** to increase the annual charge.

Q30: Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by up to £5?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 127

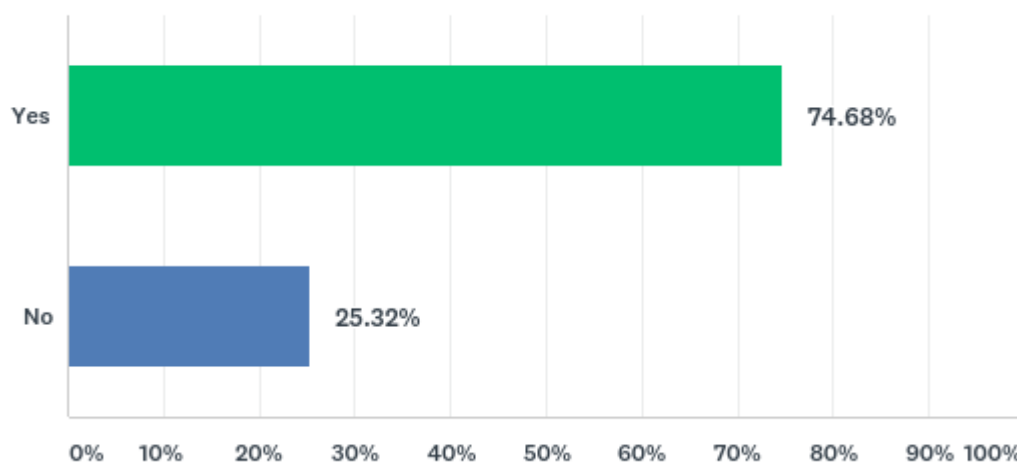
Data shows the **majority** of respondents to this question **supported (93.9%)** raising the annual charge by up to £5.



Q31: Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by more than £5?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 127

Data shows that the **majority** of respondents to this question **supported (74.9%)** the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by more than £5.



Data shows that the **majority** of respondents to this question **supported (74.9%)** the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by more than £5.

Q32: Do you have any other comments?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 284

55.88% of comments were from residents of Royal Berkshire

33.82% of comments were from RBFRS staff

10.29% of comments were from those who work in Royal Berkshire or an organisation

14.29% (10 comments) of respondents remarked they had nothing further to add.

58 comments provided information to be considered.

Of the 60 valuable responses, 38 provided comments of positive support towards the topic of council tax rise. 14 individuals explicitly expressed they would be happy with an increase of *more* than £5. 8 responses were directly negative towards the increase.

Overall, there were three key issues emerging in the vast majority of the data.

16 comments voiced a desire to know where the extra money would be spent:

“A clear accountable structure to show how the additional monies would be utilised.”

“The public would need to see evidence of the extra funding and how it has made a difference.”

“We have to remember many households are still struggling, £5 needs to be proven to be justified and households need to see evidence of the impact of the additional funding.”

18 comments expressed strong opinions about where the money should be spent, specifically that extra money should be directed towards frontline staff and resources, and not on other initiatives:

“Transparency to all us residents please. Where exactly does our money go? I would support this increase if 100% goes to resources & nowhere else.”

“It would be nice if one of the most affluent Counties could put their hands in their pockets. It would also be nice if any funds raised went to the right areas within the organisation, such as training of frontline staff and prevention as a priority...”

“As long as this money is spent financing front line personnel no other projects”

“A correctly funded service is needed this amount is nothing in the big scheme as long as it goes on the important things i.e. firefighters on fire engines and their equipment and not just back room staff, management or nice to do projects.”

Lastly, 12 comments made suggestions on how/where else to get alternative or additional funding. These focus on either changes within the Fire Service and the way in which money is spent, or criticize the government and feel more central funding should be available;

“I believe the fire authority should be applying for funding linked to all building projects, due to inevitable increased workload. This should be first line start.”

“...I would like to see more working as a Thames Valley service. For example more back room/support roles could be shared. The fire authority members could also be shared/reduced.”

“More funding should be coming from central government to support the fire brigade and what they do - Chiefs and the like should all be very strongly campaigning government for that funding to come down.”

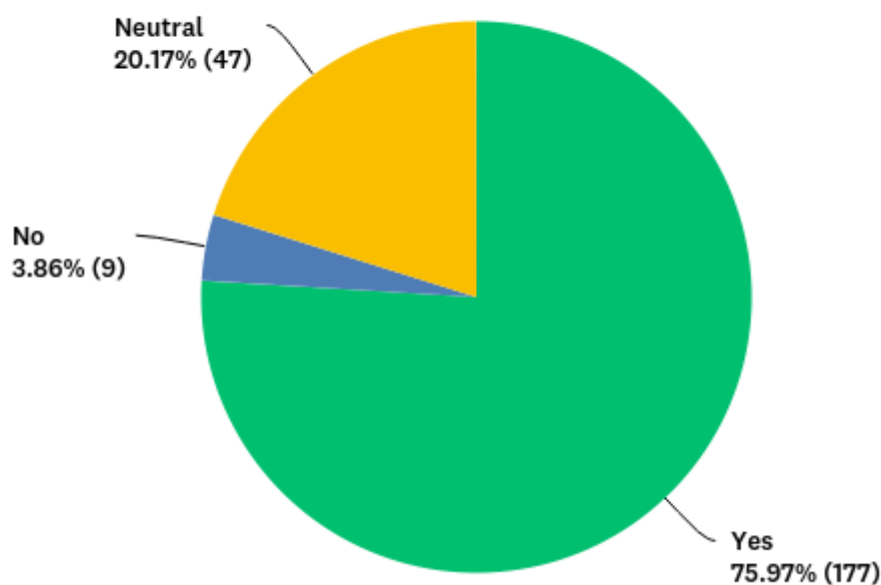
“Suggest section 26 or equivalent is increased on new builds to ensure adequate funding for fire cover. Council tax SHOULD NOT go up!”

IRMP Consultation

Q33: On page 21 of the Corporate Plan and IRMP, we outlined the circumstances in which we will engage in consultation with the public of Royal Berkshire. Do you feel this explanation is clear?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 128

Data shows that the **majority** of respondents to this question agreed that the circumstances in which consultation may or may not take place were clear (75.3%).



There were 12 comments to this question. 2 comments provided no extra information.

The comments received to this question were small in number and as such we were unable to collate any emerging themes.

There were 7 comments which made some reference around the clarity of the consultation information that is presented, as well as the detail provided:

“Information should be simplified to a one page document which general public most likely to read, with signposting to the specific sections. Fire authority should also outline current income and current spend vectors- including admin/ resource etc. and better define the prop rises gains by increasing tax burden and where this increased revenue is aimed to be spent. Therefore, some simplification & signposting to succinct detail rather than generic statements would be far easier for the community to base decisions.”

“Cut out the politically correct waffle and say and do what you mean and stop all this paper pushing. We want you to put fires out and help stop them in the first place not confuse us all with your never ending list of objectives and how you will work with everyone without offending them maybe even aliens !”

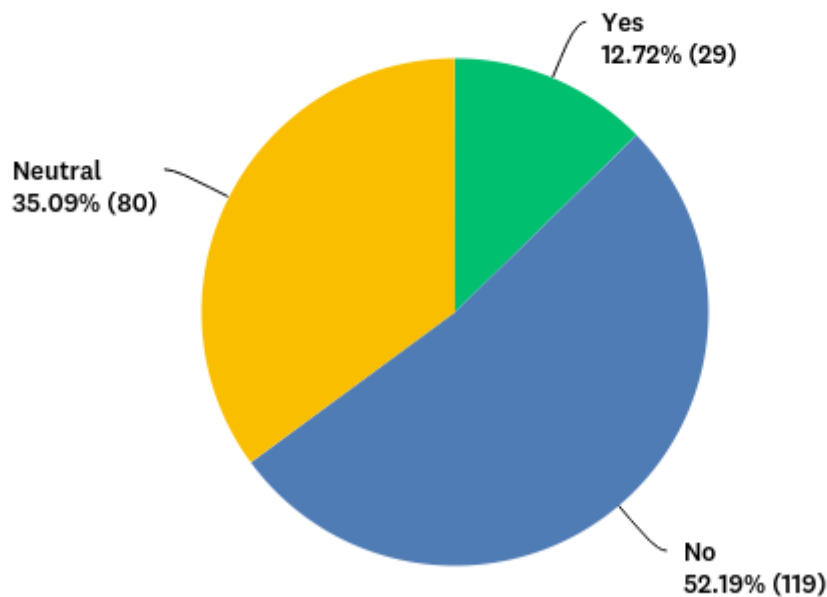
“Define 'Sufficient information', as timescales & budgets were missing.”

There was also one comment which raised concerns about the effectiveness of consultation:

“There is no explanation of "consultation". The public should be made aware that consultation only means being told of a change, not being able to influence the change!”

Q34: Do you feel there are any other areas that we have not named which should be included in any public consultation we do?

Data shows that the **majority (52.19 %)** of respondents felt that there were no other areas to be included in any public consultation we do.



Qualitative Data

There were 18 comments to this question. 2 comments provided no extra information.

The comments received to this question were small in number and no main theme emerged.

There was some common reference to the clarity and depth of information presented within the consultation document:

“State clearly exactly what is being consulted on. Is it simply internal methods of working or end results for the public?”

“The detail of how you intend to provide the respond to incidents, crewing numbers, supervision, attendance times.”

“The graphic shows the number of call outs per station but doesn’t show any statistics of how many of those calls related to the station area and what percentage of the time the stations were available, this gives a true value for money account per station within the Authority.”

“We publish details on how we have taken consultation into account? If we do not, then we should! Highlight any themes in the response and what we have done to address them OR explain why we have not directly addressed them.”

Overall questions

Q35: If you feel that there is anything else we need to consider, please outline in the box below.

There were 38 responses to this question, 23 provided no information.

6 comments related to a need for better communicated information to allow consideration of consultation material:

“Impact on staff morale and welfare. Clearer and more detailed communication about proposals and implications and how staff will be affected could improve. Consulting on ideas is quite vague, involvement of staff as details and logistics of how proposals are to be implemented would be better for staff to feel involved.”

“RBFRS should continue to promote the good work they do through social media, Facebook etc. as this helps remind the public what we do. We should continue to make it clear we don’t just put out fires and attend accidents.”

6 comments also referred to a need to focus on the service RBFRS provide:

“With the trend in ongoing government cuts to the public sector the Fire service needs to ensure it is adequately funded for its future survival and the health and wellbeing of the people it serves.”

“With fire deaths increasing, climate changing and more hot spells like we have just had, the importance of having all the stations available to the public all of the time should be at the forefront of any outcome made.”

4 comments made reference to a focus on RBFRS staff:

“1) State how fire people on the ground level (i.e. responding to incidents) will be supported during the next year. E.g. Will they get pay raises, will staffing levels be increased (or decreased), does equipment need any major renewal / improvement? As these are the people who deliver the service, they should feature prominently in the plan. 2) Consider if HQ and management functions can be streamlined to provide savings without increasing Council Tax charge.”

Q36: If you have any other comments, please outline in the box below.

There were 26 responses to this question, 15 of which provided no information.

Again, a very small number of people gave feedback to this question, thus no themes could be identified. An example of this feedback is illustrated below:

“Increase public awareness of how they can feedback and be involved.”

“I like the way the information has been presented in this plan - enough details for the reader to understand, yet avoids complicated paragraphs of information.”

“The Fire Authority needs to be more robust in its lobbying of central government for adequate funding for its fire service, not only for the people they are to protect and serve but also the staff that so selflessly work hard to protect the people of Berkshire.”

“You guys do an amazing job. Thank you for your service.”

5. Summary and Next Steps

RBFRS will continue to review its consultation methods to ensure we communicate with our stakeholders in an effective and meaningful way. We welcome any feedback you may have.

In light of the consultation closing on 28 September 2018, and the publication of this full report, in due course final decisions from RBFRA on the proposed IRMP projects will be published and made available via rbfrs.co.uk.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: FBU Consultation Response

Appendix B: Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Response

Appendix C: Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Response

Appendix A: FBU Response

Project 1: Risk Analysis

Q14 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 1?

Neutral

Q15 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 1?

You should also consider listening to and working with the Fire Brigades Union.

Q16 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 1?

We have concerns relating to the risk methodology and modelling of the other Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley

Project 2: Prevention

Q17 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 2?

Agree

Q18 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 2?

Respondent skipped this question

Q19 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 2?

Respondent skipped this question

Project 3: Protection

Q20 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 3?

Neutral

Q21 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 3?

Consideration of anything coming out of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Q22 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 3?

Respondent skipped this question

Project 4: Response Resource Development

Q23 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 4?

Neutral

Q24 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 4?

Revisit the decision to move Dee Road to Theale.

Q25 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 4?

Respondent skipped this question

Project 5: Response Safe Systems of Work Development

Q26 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 5?

Agree

Q27 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 5?

Respondent skipped this question

Q28 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 5?

Respondent skipped this question

Council Tax

Q29 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority having this flexibility?

Yes

Q30 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by up to £5?

Yes

Q31 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by more than £5?

Yes

Q32 Do you have any other comments?

The FBU supports this fully, the aim should be to return to 5 riders on all appliances.

Additional Questions

Q33 On page 21 of the Corporate Plan and IRMP, we outlined the circumstances in which we will engage in consultation with the public of Royal Berkshire. Do you feel this explanation is clear?

Yes

Q34 Do you feel there are any other areas that we have not named which should be included in any public consultation we do?

No

Q35 If you feel that there is anything else we need to consider, please outline in the box below.

Respondent skipped this question

Q36 If you have any other comments, please outline in the box below.

Respondent skipped this question

Appendix B: Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Response

Project 1: Risk Analysis

Q14 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 1?

Agree

Q15 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 1?

None - approach appears to be comprehensive and well structured

Q16 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 1?

We look forward to continuing our collaboration in this area.

Project 2: Prevention

Q17 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 2?

Agree

Q18 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 2?

Respondent skipped this question

Q19 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 2?

We would welcome opportunities to share learning and experiences across the range of activities that you identify

Project 3: Protection

Q20 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 3?

Agree

Q21 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 3?

Q22 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 3?

Approach is well structured and aligns with that adopted by ourselves. We remain supportive of our existing collaboration in relation to protection policies, processes and resources.

Project 4: Response Resource Development

Q23 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 4?

Agree

Q24 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 4?

Consider inclusion of demographic projections alongside evaluation of housing and infrastructure.

Q25 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 4?

We are happy to share our own approach to resource deployment to assist thinking in relation to the development of your own approach.

Project 5: Response Safe Systems of Work Development

Q26 Do you agree or disagree with our proposed overall focus for Project 5?

Agree

Q27 What other factors do you think we should consider in relation to Project 5?

Respondent skipped this question

Q28 Are there any specific comments you would like to make about the individual sub projects within Project 5?

We are fully supportive these projects and look forward to building on our existing collaborations in relation to them.

Council Tax

Q29 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority having this flexibility?

Yes

Q30 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by up to £5?

Yes

Q31 Would you be supportive of the Fire Authority raising the annual charge by more than £5?

Yes

Q32 Do you have any other comments?

As a low precepting Authority we are supportive of changes to the existing Council Tax capping regime which, in its current form, disadvantages more prudent authorities.

Additional Questions

Q33 On page 21 of the Corporate Plan and IRMP, we outlined the circumstances in which we will engage in consultation with the public of Royal Berkshire. Do you feel this explanation is clear?

Yes

Q34 Do you feel there are any other areas that we have not named which should be included in any public consultation we do?

Neutral

Q35 If you feel that there is anything else we need to consider, please outline in the box below.

Respondent skipped this question

Q36 If you have any other comments, please outline in the box below.

Respondent skipped this question

Appendix C: Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Response

Royal Berkshire Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-2023 Consultation

Thank you for your letter offering the opportunity to comment on your Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-2023.

The approach set out in the RBFRA IRMP is similar to the approach we are now taking as we look to develop our next IRMP and we have already benefited from the support from yourself as Chair of the Advisory Panel. I am sure we can continue to build on this and seek to collaborate and share best practice, in partnership and aligned to NFCC.

RBFRA IRMP sets out a clear methodology that is presented well. It is clear in terms of your approach to risk analysis, prevention, protection and response resource deployment. Your approach to assessing risk and developing capabilities to strengthen your assessment is something of great interest to Surrey Fire and Rescue. I look forward to our continued engagement with you and the NFCC to share best practice and develop further our capabilities in this area.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Owen-Hughes
Acting Chief Fire Officer

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